

## -- Books --

Gustav E. Mueller: *Dialectic. A way Into and Within Philosophy*. Bookman Associates, New York. 1953. 234 pages.

"Dialectic—an outrageous name, as outlandish as they come!" But a good name for a thing that must needs appear outlandish to the worldly mind, though it is a thing without which no mind can live sanely. The thing is philosophic "reflection on the values of human existence in reality." And Gustav Mueller's book is truly "A Way Into and Within Philosophy," as the subtitle announces. It also shows that sublimest kind of efficiency required by the mistress he courted for a long time, and often with success—poetry.

I am tempted to break a vow I took at the midcentury point, never again to use a "textbook" in my classes. None of the so-called experts would call Mueller's *Dialectic* a "textbook." In the first place it does not talk down; it takes for granted that the reader wants to think. Secondly, it is not verbose. And thirdly, the book does not bow and scrape in front of fashionable names. A diligent student of the book is likely to emerge with some sound knowledge of things philosophical, he is not likely to acquire a glib facility of conversation about living or recently deceased professors of philosophy and about their respective "isms." "Philosophy is the critique of all abstract isms." The student of this book will know reason, conceptual clearness, rather than ratiocination, "talk about talking."

*Dialectic* is an excellent book. Like most good books it has a few flaws. A pundit might object to the unorthodox ruggedness of the language. A mind like mine, nurtured on the lucid drawings of the engineer, finds confusion in the diagrams meant to elucidate the text. The use of one of these diagrams for a jacket decoration gives a misleading impression as to the purpose of the book, which is anything but mechanical.—Fritz Marti

Dr. Fritz Marti, who reviews this last of many contributions to the study of philosophy made by Professor Gustav Mueller, is Professor of Philosophy at Marietta College.

some introduction to the major social problems of mankind and the attempts that have been made at their solution; to increase his respect for and his devotion to the broadest ideals and aspirations of our own culture; to enable him to know something of other languages and other cultures; and to help him to reach a high degree of attainment in some scholarly branch of knowledge. In some of these aspirations which we have for you, you are succeeding brilliantly; in others, you still leave us with much to be desired.

### Under Cover . . .

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One faculty member, somewhat smaller than many of his colleagues, was reported to have a slightly buckled-in-the-middle look as he came to class with two six-guns, ready for a two-handed draw.

Several students rented horses and rode them around the campus and to classes. Evidence of the student-on-horseback was still available several days after the campus had settled down to its studies.

Many campus organizations deserve great credit for planning and carrying out the celebration. Perhaps it is unfair to single any one organization out for special commendation, but I'll run the risk. I think the 'O' Club's participation contributed the spark that was needed to make the occasion memorable.

As marshals, sheriffs and deputies, they performed their services so well and with so much enthusiasm that many students, reluctant to participate, saw how much fun was at hand and joined in. To see the athletes participate had also the effect of attracting larger audiences for every event.

It is probably just as unfair to single out one individual for praise in making the celebration interesting. Again, I'll risk it. Dr. Cross, by declaring a half-day vacation and other evidence of support, threw the entire administration and faculty behind the event. More important, everyone knew that the head man wanted the students to have fun in a truly all-school celebration.

The Frontier Days idea has gotten off to a good start. If succeeding Days are as bright as those April 8-9, it's a sure bet that it will become a campus tradition. (Just a thought: I'm betting, that as long as the Days continue as a campus event, there will be no worry about "panty raids" or other evidences of spring fever.)

### Graduate Education . . .

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follows: to cultivate in the student the ability to think independently, reflectively and analytically; to train him to use his native language clearly and precisely; to give him

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